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BURLINGTON
FREE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

*With
Historical
Sketch*



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Officers

PHILIP M. CRapo, *President.*

REV. DR. WM. SALTER, *Vice President.*

JOHN J. FLEMING, *Treasurer.*

MISS MIRIAM E. CAREY, *Secretary.*

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Librarians

MISS MIRIAM E. CAREY, *Librarian.*

MISS LUCRETIA D. CLAPP, *First Assistant Librarian.*

MISS META BUETTNER, *Second Assistant Librarian.*

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BURLINGTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Historical Note

On February 23, 1868, a meeting was called for the establishment in Burlington of a Subscription Library, known as the Public Library. The Hon. James W. Grimes contributed five thousand dollars. Three hundred citizens took shares of stock of ten dollars each. The amount of dues entitling subscribers to draw books from the library was fixed at three dollars per annum. The library continued on this basis for nearly seventeen years, when, owing to the failure of the organization to properly supply the needs of the community—only seventy-three subscribers having contributed to the support during the last year—the stockholders resolved by vote at their annual meeting in January, 1885, to donate the library to the city, provided a tax should be levied to sustain it as a Free Public Library.

Mr. Philip M. Crapo interested himself in securing

the payment of a debt against the library, the payment of which was a condition of acceptance by the City Council. The gift was then accepted and the Free Public Library was established, installed in the Council Chamber of the City Hall on July 7, 1885. Here it grew and prospered, although laboring under many disadvantages, until the completion of its present beautiful and commodious building, which was begun October 25, 1896, and completed for occupancy June 28, 1898.

At the date of the issue of this report, December, 1899, the number of cards issued to patrons is 5,297, new series, representing the number of book takers. Books received from the old organizations were 6,420. The present number of books in the Library is 19,020.

The Sections of the Code of 1897 relating to Free Public Libraries may be found under Title V., Chapter 4, Sections 728-732, inclusive.



ENTRANCE TO ROTUNDA

Report of Public Library Trustees

*For year ending December thirty-first
nineteen hundred*

*To the Honorable Mayor and Council of the City of
Burlington:*

GENTLEMEN : - In conformity with the requirements of the Statute it becomes our duty and pleasure to report to your honorable body what success has attended our labors as Trustees of the Free Public Library during the past year. Our Public Library has had a healthy growth and successful administration from the beginning, but the past year has been the most successful in its history. The splendid foundation afforded by the gift of a fine collection of valuable books from the former organization, placed it at once in the front rank of Free Public Libraries in the State. The continuous wise

selection of Trustees by your honorable body, our fortunate selection of librarians, and your steadfast support and co-operation, have year by year increased its usefulness and prestige, until now we do not fear comparison with libraries of equal size and pretension anywhere in the Northwest. These are brave words, but results will justify them, and we have the satisfaction of knowing that our choice library and its splendid domicile have been created by our own efforts without outside help; that it is entirely free from debt and has never been a heavy burden upon our people.

That it is a necessary part of our educational system no one can doubt who knows the keen appreciation



THE MUSEUM: FROM ENTRANCE TO THE ROTUNDA

and increasing interest of the hundreds of patrons who daily avail themselves of its privileges. The education of the school is necessary, but it is compulsory to a degree, and some chafe under its regime; but the education of the Public Library is voluntary; its advantages are sought after; every patron is a thankful recipient of its benefits, and cannot fail to become its friend and advocate.

We see evidence of this growing favor every week in the year. Books are donated, pictures of public value or interest are given, and our historical room has become the depository of many rich gifts, illustrating natural history and domestic arts, which are of material value in our scheme of education. The gifts of the past year have been so many that it would be tedious to enumerate them here. The report of the Librarian will furnish a detailed exhibit; but notable among them is the medical library of 244 volumes of the late Dr.

William H. Davis, donated by his executor, L. L. Davis, and the valuable library of the late Marion Starr-Palmer, embracing 183 volumes on Social Science and kindred subjects, presented to the library by her husband, Luke Palmer, Esq. Such gifts as these enrich the library on special lines to an extent which we would not be able to go, with our ordinary resources, and at the same time leave a useful and lasting memorial which will awaken pleasant memories and grateful acknowledgments for generations to come.

The routine work of the past year has been very successful and satisfactory. The number of books taken from the library has been 54,505. But this does not include the reference books, which have been used to a greater extent than ever before. No actual count has been kept of these books, which have been in daily use for study and research by students and especially by pupils of the public schools. It is esti-



THE READING ROOM, FROM THE ROTUNDA

mated that the number so in use has not been less than 6,000, thus making a total distribution of books for the year of fully 60,500 volumes. This is a gratifying increase over the work of the previous year, and justifies the purchase of the greater number of reference books of permanent value which have been added to the library in the past twelve months. Other important works of this character are greatly needed, but as they are expensive and our resources are limited, comparatively few books of this class can be purchased each year.

The number of readers and students at the library during the past year has been 30,664. This does not take into account the various classes and organizations which meet regularly in the club room, to whom the library is an almost indispensable necessity in the prosecution of their studies.

To assist the patrons of the library, and that they

may become more familiar with its resources, cases have been prepared for the new books outside of the delivery desk, to which book takers have constant access, and they are cordially invited to visit the stack room in search of books on any subject in which they are interested. This privilege is greatly appreciated, especially by students.

The work of compiling our dictionary catalogue under the Dewey system, is progressing rapidly and satisfactorily, under the efficient direction of Miss Carey. About twelve thousand volumes have already been classified, and the books systematically arranged in their permanent location on the shelves. This work is of inestimable value to the proper use of the library. The patrons of the library are rapidly familiarizing themselves with the use of the system, and are surprised to find how simple and convenient it is. The children especially are quick and apt in learning how to use it.



THE LOAN DESK

The study of genealogy, which has been attracting much attention in the libraries of the eastern states, has become increasingly noticeable here recently. We are indebted to the states of Massachusetts and New York for the gift of valuable books on this subject. We are also under many obligations to the Honorable Charles Aldrich for the gift of many rare and valuable autograph letters and portraits of distinguished personages. Largely through his suggestions and generosity we have been able to make a creditable collection in this line, which has been augmented by local gifts. We have received during the past year a portrait in oil of the late F. B. Jaggar, who at his decease made a valuable gift to the library, and we have the promise of other valuable portraits of prominent Burlingtonians in the near future. It is our aim to make the library a depository of treasures of this kind. A gallery of portraits of the men who have honored Burlington

would be very attractive and would fittingly illustrate the history of the city. In our public library they would be preserved for all time to come. We must not forget the many valuable books received from Washington, D. C., through the special effort and generosity of Hon. Thomas Hedge.

We wish to repeat our thanks to our public-spirited townsman, Mr. Charles Buettner, who has prepared and arranged with great labor and care, the beautiful and valuable exhibit in our natural history room. Our city is fortunate in having a man so capable and willing to give his services in developing this important feature of the public library, and who has also donated many of the rarest specimens of our fine collection.

While referring to gifts we must not lose sight of the valuable contribution of services which has been so freely given by several ladies during the past year, and who have assisted in the preparation of the



THE STACK ROOM

dictionary catalogue and the marking and rearranging of the books under the new system. The work has been greatly expedited by their assistance and there has been considerable saving in expense.

To the teachers of the public schools we wish to repeat our assurance that we are ready at all times to co-operate with them in any means they may suggest that will enlarge the usefulness of the library for their pupils in the prosecution of their studies, and we will very gladly put upon our shelves any reference and textbooks which may be helpful to them. We also extend a most cordial welcome to the school children, and to our youth generally, to use freely every facility for their improvement afforded by the library, for we recognize the fact that among the youth our library finds its warmest friends and its widest field of influence.

Our affairs during the past year have been con-

ducted with scrupulous care and economy. The expenditures have been \$5,011.56, and out of this (after meeting all necessary expenses) we have been able to purchase 734 new books and replace 183 worn-out books, at a cost of \$1,198.47. This is a better showing than the former year, and the effect has been felt to a marked degree in the patronage of the library. Still we have not been able to purchase, from our limited revenues, all the reference books and scientific works necessary to give the library its greatest efficiency, and additional cases are needed in the natural history room for the protection and proper display of many valuable gifts, which have not been mounted because we have no proper place to exhibit them. We are also in great need of a typewriter. We hope at no distant day our revenues may be increased so as to more fully meet our requirements, and in the meantime we propose to keep our expenditures strictly



THE READING ROOM

within the limit of our appropriation, as we have always done. It will be absolutely necessary for the continuance of the work of the library, that your honorable body shall make the same levy for library purposes in 1901 as during the previous year, viz: one mill for maintenance and one-half mill for building purposes. Owing to the gradual reduction of assessed valuations and the change in the per cent. of such values for purposes of taxation, a levy of one and one-half mills realizes only a small amount in excess of the proceeds of a mill levy a few years ago. With the necessary additional expenses incident to the occupation of our new library building, the present levy of one and one-half mills, does not leave us as much money for the purchase of books as we had under the one mill levy in our old quarters in the council chamber. It probably is not necessary for us to discuss this matter as you have been hampered from the same cause in all departments of the city's affairs.

During the coming year we are to be honored for

the first time by the presence of the annual meeting of the State Library Association, and the State Library Commission. This will be an important meeting as there will be a large representation from all over the state, and celebrities in library work from other states, east and west, will doubtless be here. We have a high reputation to sustain. All things considered, we do not yield precedence to any library in the state. We must endeavor to sustain our excellent reputation and make our claims good. With your assistance and the support of the good people of Burlington, we will endeavor to do it. We desire to express our full appreciation of the cordial and effective manner in which your honorable body has seconded all our efforts to successfully administer the affairs of our Free Public Library. We feel that you are fairly entitled to a share of the credit for whatever we may have accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
By PHILIP M. CRAPO, President.



THE REFERENCE ROOM

Librarian's Report

*From January first, nineteen hundred, to December
thirty-first, nineteen hundred*

To the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library:

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to submit to you the fourteenth annual report of the Burlington Free Public Library, covering the period from January 1, 1900, to December 31, 1900, inclusive, together with a statement of the present condition of the library in its various departments. At the close of the last report there were in the library 17,720 volumes. In the past year 1,340 have been added by purchase and donation—734 by purchase and 606 by donation. Greater results have been obtained than ever before as the following report will show. During the year 1900 the building was

open to the public three hundred and six days from nine A. M. until six P. M.; one hundred and fifty-one evenings from seven until nine; 54,184 books and periodicals were issued for home use. Classified as follows:

History and Biography.....	3,434
Voyages and Travel.....	1,445
Miscellaneous.....	1,690
Fiction.....	29,756
Juvenile	11,930
German	1,619
Science.....	2,573



THE LECTURE ROOM

Periodicals	1,692
Swedish.....	45

Total.....	54,184
Monthly average	4,545

This, with the books used in the reference room, makes a showing of over 60,000 books; more than we have ever circulated before.

The circulation per month was:

January.....	5,350
February	5,130
March.....	6,440
April	4,510
May	3,825
June	3,893
July	3,779
August.....	4,075
September	3,620

October.....	4,180
November	4,705
December.....	4,677

Total.....	54,184

There were 917 books purchased; 183 of these were to replace those worn out; 606 donated; 479 rebound; 97 magazines bound.

Thirty thousand one hundred and twenty-seven persons were counted in the reading room, and 3,298 in the evenings. This is not a correct statement as it is impossible to keep a record of all persons visiting the library.

Five hundred and sixty-three cards were issued to new book borrowers, making the present number 5,297 of the second series.



VIEW OF THE ART WINDOW IN STACK ROOM: SUBJECT, HYPATIA

Money was taken in as follows:

From Fines.....	\$ 59 80
Lost Cards.....	16 20
Catalogues Sold.....	33 50

Paid to Treasurer.....	\$109 50
Incidental expenses.....	\$ 63 92

DONATIONS IN 1900.

BOOKS

Mrs. Starr-Palmer.....	18 3
Dr. W. H. Davis.....	24 4
Mr. Frank Churchill.....	8
Rev. Dr. Salter, 6 pamphlets, 1 booklet.....	8
Miss Carey.....	5
Mr. Crapo.....	15
Henry Wood.....	1
F. H. Dougal.....	1

BOOKS

Mrs. Hearst	1
Hon. Thomas Hedge	13
Am. Union League.....	1
Allen-Lane Pub.....	1
Mr. Charles Willner	4
James Love	1
Ronbroke Press	1
J. Farmer	1
E. S. Balch	1
W. Hagerty	2
Miss David.....	3
Max Poppe	1
Charles Buettner.....	3
T. W. Balch	2
Electric Fire Proof Co.....	1
Sons Revolution, Mo.....	1
Mr. Luke Palmer	8

BOOKS

Lippincott Co.....	1
John Dillon.....	1
State Library, N. Y.....	2
Hon. Charles Aldrich	1
Cooksey Publishing Co	2
Secretary State of Iowa.....	1
Rev. Father Mackin.....	7
Hon. Frederick Stearns, Detroit.....	3
August Ende.....	1
Secretary Commonwealth, Mass	7
J. Goodwin.....	1
A. D. Cromwell.....	1
Mrs. Thalmeier, bound magazines, volumes.	32
Iowa General Assembly.....	2
Mr. George Frazee, pamphlet	1
Government Documents, Washington.....	32

Mrs. Gear—Portrait, Senator Gear.
Mrs. F. B. Jaggar—Portrait, Mr. Jaggar.
Mrs. D. W. Peasley—Cabinet of Specimens from
Yellowstone Park.

Mr. Frank Churchill—Box of Minerals; Two
Mexican Water Bottles; Progress, 7 numbers, un-
bound; Valley of the Mississippi, 12 numbers.

Mr. Crapo has added numerous beautiful attractions
to the museum; also pictures, many valuable casts and
statuary.

We are also indebted to Dr. Salter, Mr. Crapo,
Mr. Charles Aldrich, of Des Moines, Mr. Hedge, Miss
Derby, Mrs. Waldschmidt, Mrs. G. Potter and others
for autographs and autograph letters. We have now a
fine collection, filling some thirty-three drawers of our
cabinet.

EXPENSES FOR 1900.

Incidental expenses,	\$ 533 14
Books	1,194 47
Magazines	107 97
Binding	298 87
Printing	16 00

Fixtures	710 54
Salaries	2,195 00
Total	\$5,955 99

CLARA S. WILSON,
Librarian.



U.C. BERKELEY LIBRARIES



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